

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-13 are presently active in this case.

In the outstanding Office Action, the title of the invention was objected to as not being descriptive; and Claims 1-4, 7-9, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,822,701 to Tomisato. Claims 5, 6, and 10-12 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. However, because Applicants believe themselves entitled to the scope of protection defined by Claims 1 and 8, Claims 5, 6, and 10-12 have been presently maintained in dependent form.

In response to the objection to the title, Applicants have rewritten the title to read "METHOD AND DEVICE FOR COMMUNICATING VIA AN AD-HOC WIRELESS NETWORK." No further objection on this basis is therefore anticipated.

The present invention is directed to forming an ad-hoc wireless network. To that end, the present invention (Claim 1) provides at least one mobile station configured to receive from a base station a signal destined for a target mobile station. The at least one mobile station sends the received signal to the target mobile station via a predetermined wireless network (i.e., an ad-hoc network). The target mobile station also receives the same signal from the base station. The target mobile station synthesizes the signals received from the base station and the at least one mobile station. See Figure 2 of the Specification. As a consequence of this configuration, the target mobile station can effectively obtain a diversity effect regardless of the physical size of the target mobile station and regardless of the location of the base station.

In contradistinction thereto, Tomisato discloses a high speed radio communication system including a mobile station 5 and base stations 11A-11C, wherein the mobile station 5

receives the same signal from each of the base stations 11A-11C in order to obtain a path diversity effect. See column 11, lines 15-27 of Tomisato. Applicants respectfully submit that Tomisato does not disclose or suggest forming an ad-hoc network between mobile stations and does not disclose or suggest that a mobile station sends a signal received from a base station to another mobile station via an ad-hoc network. Rather, Tomisato simply discloses that a plurality of base stations send a signal to a mobile station in order to obtain a path diversity effect. Consequently, Tomisato is not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by Claim 1.

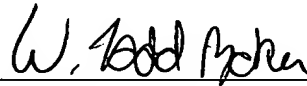
Regarding Claim 8, the Official Action asserts that the claimed transceiver units of the claimed mobile unit are anticipated by Tomisato's base stations 11A-11C. Applicants respectfully traverse that assertion. Applicants point out that because the claimed transceiver units are provided in a mobile station, the base stations provided for by Tomisato are not believed to be anticipatory. Further, as discussed above, Tomisato fails to disclose or suggest the ad-hoc network feature of the present invention. Consequently, Tomisato is not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by Claim 8.

In light of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1 and 8 are patentably distinguishable from the applied patent, and the dependent Claims 2-7 and 9-13 are therefore also patentably distinguishable from the applied patent.

Consequently, in view of the above remarks, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance an early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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